

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /035 W  
----- 053468

P 161044Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3909

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 04372

DEPARTMENT FOR EB AND SCA

DEPARTMENT ALSO PASS FAA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, BE, CASC

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: SEIZURE OF US TRAVEL CLUB'S PLANE AND  
POTENTIAL STRANDING OF RETURN PASSENGERS IN BELGIUM

1. BELGIAN COURT IN OSTEND HAS SEIZED DC-8 AIRCRAFT OPERATED  
BY US AIR TRAVEL CLUB, AIR CALEDONIA OF DENVER, COLORADO,  
IN RESPONSE TO ACTION RELATING TO BILLS OUTSTANDING AGAINST  
AIR CALEDONIA. THE PLANE DEPARTED SALT LAKE CITY MAY 10,  
ARRIVING OSTEND MAY 11 WITH APPROXIMATELY 130 PASSENGERS.  
ACCORDING TO PRROUTING ON FILE WITH BELGIAN CIVIL AVIATION  
AUTHORITIES, PLANE WAS TO LEAVE BELGIUM MAY 15, RETURNING  
LATER FOR RETURN FLIGHT TO SALT LAKE CITY WITH SAME PASSENGERS  
MAY 26. SINCE SEIZURE OF PLANE, BELGIANS HAVE TRIED TO CONTACT  
AIR CALEDONIA WITHOUT SUCCESS. PILOT AND CREW OF AIRCRAFT  
HAVE DEPARTED COUNTRY, AND NO ONE HAS IMPOUNDED PLANE.  
THEY THEREFORE NOTIFIED EMBASSY OF EXISTENCE OF THIS PROBLEM  
ON MAY 15.

2. AS THINGS NOW STAND, PASSENGERS WHO ENTERED BELGIUM VIA  
AIR CALEDONIA FLIGHT WILL HAVE NO MEANS OF RETURN TO U.S.  
MAY 26. THESE 130 PEOPLE ARE PRESUMABLY DISPERSED THROUGHOUT  
EUROPE AND UNAWARE OF THEIR PROBLEM. WE WOULD APPRECIATE  
DEPARTMENT COORDINATING WITH FAA ON URGENT BASIS TO LOCATE  
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AIR CALEDONIA MANAGEMENT AND STRONGLY URGE THEM TO MAKE ALTER-

NATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR RETURN OF THEIR PASSENGERS IN LIKELY EVENT IMPOUNDED AIRCRAFT REMAINS UNAVAILABLE. IN ADDITION, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW AIR CALEDONIA'S INTENTIONS VIS-A-VIS SETTLEMENT OF ISSUES SURROUNDING SEIZURE OF ITS AIRCRAFT. IF POSSIBLE, PASSENGERS SHOULD BE LOCATED AND NOTIFIED OF CHANGES IN RETURN ARRANGEMENTS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

3. BELGIAN CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES AND EMBASSY ARE PREPARED TO WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER TO AVOID SITUATION OF 130 STRANDED AMCITS WHICH COULD OCCUR MAY 26. ADVISE ASAP RESULTS OF EFFORTS WITH AIR CALEDONIA.

4. EMBASSY HAS INFORMED BRUSSELS FAA OF FOREGOING.FIRESTONE

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## Message Attributes

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